

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

ACDA-05 SAJ-01 OMB-01 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-10 /069 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1851

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USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 9420

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: LEFT-WING CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS RESIGN PARTY POSTS  
BUT STAY IN GOVERNMENT

REF: ROME 9173

SUMMARY: IN WEEKEND MEETINGS, LEADERS OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (DC) LEFT-WING FACTIONS DECIDED TO RESIGN PARTY POSTS, BUT TO HOLD OFF WITHDRAWAL FROM MORO GOVERNMENT. IN PRE-EMPTIVE STRIKE, DC PARTY SECRETARY FANFANI CONVOKED DC DIRECTORATE TODAY TO FORMULATE PROPOSAL ON DATE AND THEMES FOR PARTY CONGRESS TO BE HELD LATER IN YEAR. IF ACCEPTED, FANFANI MOVE WOULD TEND TO FREEZE LEADERSHIP AND BASIC POLICIES OF DC PARTY UNTIL THE FALL, THUS DEFEATING PARTY LEFT'S OBJECTIVE OF AN IMMEDIATE SHAKE-UP. PARTY'S MODERATE MAJORITY FACTIONS ARE SEEKING MORE TIME TO DECIDE THEIR ATTITUDE ON QUESTION AND HAVE SECURED ADJOURNMENT OF DIRECTORATE MEETING UNTIL JULY 1. END SUMMARY.

1. IN SEPARATE MEETINGS JUNE 28 LEADERS OF THE TWO LEFT-WING CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (DC) FACTIONS (BASE AND FORZE NUOVE - REPRESENTING ABOUT 20 PERCENT OF THE PARTY) DECIDED TO RESIGN FROM THE DC DIRECTORATE. RESIGNATIONS OF ALL  
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SIX LEFT-WING REPRESENTATIVES ON 44-MAN DIRECTORATE PRESENTED

TODAY AT SUDDEN DIRECTORATE MEETING CALLED BY PARTY SECRETARY FANFANI. LEFT-WING PARTY LEADERS, INCLUDING MINISTERS MARCORA, COSSIGA, DONAT-CATTIN, TOROS AND DEMITA, REFRAINED FROM CARRYING OUT THREAT, MADE EARLIER BY MARCORA, OF ALSO RESIGNING THEIR GOVERNMENT POSITIONS AND THUS RISKING A SERIOUS GOVERNMENT CRISIS. BASE AND FORZE NUOVE LEADERS CALLED FOR EARLY NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING AT WHICH FANFANI AND REST OF DC LEADERSHIP WOULD SUBMIT RESIGNATIONS. THEY OPPOSED IDEA OF GOVERNMENT CRISIS AT THIS STAGE AS WELL AS IDEA OF POSTPONING MAJOR PARTY CHANGES UNTIL CONGRESS CAN BE HELD IN FALL. IF THEIR PROPOSALS ARE REJECTED, LEFT-WING FACTION LEADERS SAY THEY WILL CONSIDER RESIGNATION FROM THE MORO GOVERNMENT AND "EXTREMELY GRAVE" DECISIONS VIS-A-VIS DC CONGRESS.

2. BASE AND FORZE NUOVE INITIATIVE PARTIALLY PRE-EMPTED BY FANFANI. DC SECRETARY ON DAY BEFORE LEFT-WING FACTIONS WERE TO MEET ANNOUNCED CONVOCAION OF DC DIRECTORATE TO CONSIDER RESPONSES OF OTHER PARTIES TO DC OFFER TO RECONSTITUTE FOUR-PARTY CENTER-LEFT. MORE IMPORTANTLY, FANFANI CALLED FOR DIRECTORATE TO DISCUSS AND PROPOSE TO DC NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING LATER THIS MONTH THE DATE, PLACE AND THEMES FOR PARTY CONGRESS AS WELL AS NEW NORMS FOR SELECTING CONGRESS DELEGATES. IF ACCEPTED, EFFECT OF FANFANI'S PROPOSAL WOULD BE TO FREEZE LEADERSHIP AND BASIC POLICIES OF DC PARTY UNTIL CONGRESS IN FALL. FACT THAT TOP MORO LIEUTENANT, INTERIOR MINISTER GUI, IMMEDIATELY TERMED FANFANI'S INITIATIVE "APPROPRIATE AND WISE" SUGGESTS THAT MORO SUPPORTERS BELIEVE AGREEMENT TO FREEZE PARTY SITUATION UNTIL THE FALL MIGHT HELP KEEP MORO GOVERNMENT AFLOAT UNTIL THAT TIME.

3. IMPORTANCE OF DECISIONS REQUIRED IN DIRECTORATE MEETING IS LIKELY CAUSE OF DECISION TODAY FOLLOWING FANFANI OPENING SPEECH TO ADJOURN SESSION UNTIL JULY 1. MAJOR PARTY FACTIONS MEETING LATER TODAY TO DECIDE ORIENTATION. UNCERTAINTY IN CENTRIST RANKS AND HESITATION AT PROVOKING FRONTAL CONFLICT WITH PARTY LEFT-WING INDICATED BY ANDREOTTI PROPOSAL TO SUSPEND DEBATE UNTIL TOMORROW AND TO ALLOW LEFT-WING MEMBERS TO CONTINUE

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TO PARTICIPATE DESPITE THEIR RESIGNATION.VOLPE

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## Message Attributes

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